

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-7

NEW YORK TIMES
2 JUNE 1982

U.S. Citizen Is Accused Of Espionage in China

PEKING, June 1 (AP) — An American teacher has been detained by Chinese authorities for spying, the United States Embassy said today.

Foreign sources said the woman, Lisa Wichser, 28 years old, of Denver, was lured from her room, handcuffed and detained by 10 police officers last Friday. It was the first time that an American was detained since the normalization of Chinese-United States relations three years ago.

Miss Wichser was detained at the Friendship Hotel where she has lived for two years while teaching English and doing research on China's communes. Miss Wichser has sought permission to marry a Chinese economics student and officials of her school reportedly have approved, while those of her fiancé's school have not.

The embassy said her detention "relates to the theft of state secrets."

The embassy also lodged a protest against the Chinese handling of the case, indicating it violated the United States-Chinese consular agreement that is part of Chinese law. The State Department in Washington said Miss Wichser "is in good condition given the nature of her unexpected situation."

Chinese police refused comment, but the Foreign Ministry said: "Lisa Wichser violated Chinese laws by engaging in activities that are incompatible with her status. She has been detained." It did not define the illegal activities.

Miss Wichser, the daughter of Herman Wichser of Noblesville, Ind., is a Ph.D. candidate from the graduate school of International Studies at the University of Denver. She speaks fluent Chinese and studied in Taiwan.